

## State of Rhode Island Department of Business Regulation



## Director's Office 233 Richmond Street Providence, Rhode Island 02903-4230

## <u>Press Release</u> September 10, 2003

Lincoln Park, Inc. (formerly the Burrillville Racing Association) has a license from the Department of Business Regulation to conduct pari-mutuel dog racing events at Lincoln Park. Lincoln Park, Inc. also has a permit from the Department to conduct pari-mutuel simulcast wagering at the Lincoln Park facility. The license was issued pursuant to R.I. Gen. Laws § 41-3.1-1 et seq. and the permit was issued pursuant to R.I. Gen. Laws § 41-11-1 et seq. (The Lottery Commission has jurisdiction over the video lottery terminals pursuant to R.I. Gen. Laws § 42-61.2-1 et seq.)

The Department has reviewed the indictment handed down by the Federal Grand Jury on September 9, 2003 against Nigel Potter, Daniel Bucci and the Burrillville Racing Association.

The Department views the allegations set forth in the indictment as serious offenses. The Department's standard for initiating emergency regulatory administrative action against licensees, including matters where criminal allegations are made, is whether there is substantial evidence that there is an imminent and ongoing threat to the public health, safety or welfare, or specifically with respect to racing and athletics, whether there is evidence that the integrity of the gaming events is currently being compromised. The Department has learned from Wembley plc that Nigel Potter and Daniel Bucci will step down from their respective executive duties while the criminal charges against them are pending. Wembley plc has expressed its intent to have another individual assume Mr. Bucci's responsibilities and the duties formerly carried out by him at Lincoln Park while the criminal proceedings are pending. The Department has required written confirmation as to the identity, qualifications and credentials of the individual who Wembley plc is proposing assume those responsibilities. The Department will review Wembley plc's response to assure the appropriateness of the selection. At this point the Department does not have evidence of an imminent or ongoing threat to the public health, safety or welfare nor does it have evidence that the day to day operations related to the gaming events at Lincoln Park are compromised.

The Department will continue to monitor the criminal proceedings to evaluate whether further Departmental regulatory action is appropriate prior to the conclusion of those proceedings. In the event that criminal convictions in fact occur, the Department will initiate regulatory administrative action as appropriate. The range of administrative remedies would include fines, suspension, denial of racing dates, and/or revocation of the license and permit.

Marilyn Shannon McConaghy Director